



# WARRIOR SPIRIT



2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team  
25th Infantry Division







# Command Team’s Forward

Warriors!

Great job and well done to the entire Brigade Combat Team during the execution of Exercise Warrior Spear! As CSM Crosby and I circulated the battlefield, we saw some great things done by every one of you. Seeing you giving 110% to get the mission accomplished was simply amazing.

You conducted the first Company-level Combined Arms Live Fires done here at Schofield Barracks in some time. All 9 Infantry Companies and 3 Cavalry Troops executed a complex live fire to a high standard with all of the weapon systems we have organic to our unit and with the support of 155mm Artillery from the batteries of 2-11 Field Artillery.

You exercised many “block and tackle” skills with a host of enablers from Tactical Explosive Detection Dogs, to Female Engagement Teams, to Human Intelligence Collection Teams, to Engineers, to Air Assault and sling load operations with aircraft from the Hawaii National Guard to U.S. Navy Search and Rescue aircraft conducting MEDEVAC training and on and on... All done as part of two demanding situational training exercises also part of Warrior Spear done here at Schofield Barracks and in the Kuhuku Training Area on the North Shore of Oahu. You set a new standard for what training can be here in the 25th Infantry Division.

You trained almost every muscle group in every War Fighting Function in this BCT from mission command with our Tactical Operations Centers to sustainment activities by our Brigade Support Battalion making this exercise a success. We got better every day that we executed Warrior Spear and we were ready to move forward and train at the National Training Center.

The opening of our training schedule now offers us new opportunities to build upon what we have learned individually and as a team. We will take the opportunity to slow our pace and increase the quality of our training, FOCUS and to truly master the basics of our profession (physical fitness, marksmanship, medical skills, communications skills and small unit battle drills), give ourselves a predictable but challenging training schedule that gives back to our families and continue to grow and develop as a Team of Teams.

In the coming weeks we will take care of ourselves, our equipment and plan for our future training in the coming months. We are extremely proud of what all of you have accomplished and we are confident in saying the Warrior Brigade is ready for whatever is in store for us next. The focus and core mission for the brigade remains consistent. We will continue to conduct tough, realistic training within our capacity and if called upon, we will be ready. Thank you all for your continued service and dedication. Tropic Lightning!

MICHAEL A. CROSBY  
Command Sergeant Major  
Brigade CSM



THOMAS H. MACKEY  
Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding

# The Chaplain’s Corner



“We’re going to the field.”

That phrase brings all sorts of thoughts and feelings to Soldiers and Families. Besides our daily routine in the Army, it reminds us that we are in a profession that at its core is about closing with and destroying the enemy. Every unit prepares for battle and when units go into battle they leave legacies. Every Soldier who has deployed, especially during the height of the surge in Iraq, has a story about the legacy their unit created. We have streamers hanging from our unit guidons that tell the story of our unit’s legacy.

Whether we like it or not, we are all building our own personal legacy. We make choices each and every day that contribute to or detract from a positive and honorable legacy. Some families have that aunt or uncle that everyone in the family respects. And then, we have that aunt or uncle that we don’t want to talk about.

What kind of a legacy are you building in your life? Even if you are not married, you are building your

legacy now. The choices you make each day effect patterns in your life that can easily become habits. What habits have formed in your life? Ask yourself that question. Would you want to tell your mother or grandmother or children about your habits? If not, re-evaluate why you allow that habit or habits to have so much control over your life.

When you are intentional about creating a positive legacy, you will make value based and not emotional based choices. When you are intentional about creating a positive legacy, you will look at the long term effects and not the short term satisfactions. When you are intentional about building a positive legacy, you experience less turbulence and uncertainty. Your marriage is stronger, your children seek your affirmation and approval, and your dog wags his tail when you pet him.

Next quarter, I will address more specifically how to create a powerful and positive legacy. If you struggle with the idea of your own legacy, see your unit chaplain or come see me.



Chaplain (Maj.) Scott Koeman

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## Operation Gimlet Spear

Story by 1st Lt. Daniel B. North  
1-21 Unit Public Affairs Representative

**SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii** – “Multiple echelon training exercise focused on troop leading procedures, commander’s intent, and providing a unique opportunity for home station training working with systems down to the lowest level Soldier,” Cpt. Michael P. Ferriter, Charlie company

commander, said it perfectly. Operation Warrior Spear facilitated the integration of maneuver, artillery, MGS, and air assets, culminating in a fantastic display of fire power and precision execution during the Live Fire Exercise.

1st Lt. Scott Paul, HHC Mortar platoon leader, will remember this exercise indefinitely. With help

from battalion and brigade, Paul, along with 1-21 IN, became the first unit to fire 120mm high explosive mortar rounds on the island of Oahu since the fielding of the Mortar Carrying Vehicle in 2006.

“It took a lot to make this happen, and it wasn’t pretty nor was it easy getting here,” said Paul. “We were fighting to make this work down to the final hour of execution, but after seeing the rounds land safely, and breathing a long sigh of relief, it all became worth it.” This ground breaking achievement will likely pave the way for future live fire shoots, and continues the unit’s efforts in defining persistence and perfection.



Warrior Spear

2013

Behind all the action, situated in the far corner of 1-21’s tactical operating center, was the 1-21 IN Fire Support Element. The FSE oversaw coordination of all fires and aviation used during 1-21’s rotation for OP Warrior Spear. Along with other support systems in the TOC, the FSE adds the necessary fire support needed for maneuver troops to accomplish each objective.

“We get to test new people to see where they excel and lack in certain skill sets,” said Spc. Curiel of the 1-21 FSE. “This exercise helped the battalion prepare itself for the National Training Center and upcoming deployments, allowing us to see where we stand in our training.”

On every level of leadership, the message was clearly recognized

and understood; incorporating every soldier, system, and asset available to enable a rare opportunity of training and live fire exercises, right here on Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. This event allowed for countless systems to be tested, errors to be corrected, and drills to be conducted with an exceptional outcome.

OP Warrior Spear was invaluable in its nature, and inherently essential to this battalion’s mission readiness and capability. There is no doubt that the preparation and countless hours spent to make it all work was well worth it, and the proof is in the pictures.



Warrior Spear

2013









# Wolfhounds Attack Warrior Spear

Story by 1st Lt. Hannah M. Smith  
1-27 Unit Public Affairs Representative

## SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii

– From 8-12 February 2013, 1-27 IN BN “Wolfhounds” participated in the Brigade Training Exercise Warrior Spear. Companies trained on three lanes: a company live fire exercise (LFX) that simulated a company raid to neutralize a Taliban Training Camp, a Key Leader Engagement (KLE) that simulated working with the local Afghan population, and a raid that involved an air assault to capture/kill a Taliban high-value target. In addition to conducting back-to-back tactical missions with a swift OPTEMPO, the Company Intelligence Support Team (CoIST) was responsible for conducting pre-briefings and de-briefings before

and after company missions to focus intelligence collection and help drive the next day’s operation. Furthermore, companies integrated enablers into their mission planning and execution to enhance their capabilities. Enablers included a Female Engagement Team (FET), Interpreters, a Human Intelligence Collection Team (HCT), a Signals Intelligence Team (SIGINT), and a dog team (TEDD).

The Wolfhounds performed particularly well during Warrior Spear. Next to receiving exceptional company training and achieving mission success on each lane, the CoIST performed in the top of the brigade. Sgt. Hudson of C Co. received a coin from Col. Mackey for conducting outstanding pre-

briefings and de-briefings that covered priority intelligence requirements (PIR) specific to the company mission for the day. Pfc. Comer of B Co. received a coin from Col. Mackey as well for putting in 20+ hour work days in support of both the CoIST and headquarters administration. Comer never lost enthusiasm or motivation despite a vast array of responsibilities and constrained timeline for product turn-in and dissemination.

Next to a focus on intelligence training, all members of the companies were put in physically and mentally exhausting situations. After carrying out a mission all day, the company would regroup and conduct troop leading procedures immediately following the lane in

preparation for the next day’s mission. Sgt. 1st Class Damon Zerby, Platoon Sergeant of 1st Platoon Borzoi Company said, “Warrior Spear gave us a prime opportunity to utilize our enablers and meet our overall training objectives as a combined arms team.”

Additionally, 1st Lt. Shawn McKillip, Fire Support Officer for Borzoi Company acknowledged,

“It was a great opportunity for us to conduct echelonment of fires and allowed for myself to control airspace for the first time during a live fire experience.”



All in all, Warrior Spear was a training opportunity for not only the maneuver elements, but also the Fires, the CoIST, the enablers, and all support personnel. The

Wolfhounds planned and executed all missions successfully and look forward to the next brigade exercise. Warriors! Wolfhounds! No Fear!











## Brigade Support for Warrior Spear

Story by 1st Lt. Johnathan Reilly  
225 BSB Unit Public Affairs Representative

### SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii

– Supporting the Warriors of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat team during operation “Warrior Spear” has become more than just a day job for the Soldier’s of the 225th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB).

Operation “Warrior Spear” has been a true test of the sustainment capabilities offered by the 225th BSB. Warrior support Soldiers have long been accustomed to rolling out first and packing up last as they strive to offer world class sustainment capabilities to their line unit counterparts, beginning to end. During a recent Battle Update Brief, 225 BSB commander Lt. Col. Rodney Honeycutt reiterated the importance of support operations

while not losing focus on continued training for our own Soldiers, as it will be important to their own professional development. He ended the meeting saying, “I won’t let up until mission complete. as long as the other battalions are in the field, we will remain operational to support them.”

Since the start of Warrior Spear on January 28, the BSB has not only supported each battalion with meal, refueling, medical, and maintenance support, they have also found the time to engage in a variety of specialized training focused on core sustainment capabilities. With the support of the Hawaiian National Guard, the BSB was able to conduct a mass casualty (MASCAL) exercise with Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) from a CH-47. The exercise involved

Soldier’s being assessed at the BSB’s on-site medical facility and then were convoyed to the pickup site and evacuated via helicopter. 1st Lt. Jonathan Boggs, Charlie Company Treatment Platoon leader, was very pleased with the progress made by the Medics and Physicians.

“This training helped to develop a more efficient patient flow throughout the facility, increasing our effectiveness to save lives on and off the battlefield.”

Morale was up within the ranks of the Charlie company Soldiers after a successful exercise.

“Our ability to communicate amongst each other and expedite the casualty care process was a night and day difference compared to previous training events,” said, Boggs.

With nearly 50 convoys completed, BSB Soldier’s also conducted 14 convoy live fire exercises (CLFX), allowing the section and platoon level leadership to train on the basics of troop leading procedures. The BSB had the opportunity to put some of their newly trained air assault Soldiers to the test with the support of a CH-47 from the Hawaiian National Guard. The sling load operations involved the rigging, inspection and hook up of a M1097 HMMWV and an M1108 Cargo trailer, in which each Soldier participating in the event had multiple chances to hook up the load to the aircraft. As the BSB prepares for future operations within the Pacific, sling load operations remain an integral factor to the distribution of supplies and sustainment services to our Warriors on the battlefield.

As a team, the 225th Brigade Support Battalion recovered 6 Strykers, served over 25,000 meals, delivered 13,276 gallons of fuel, supported both external and internal mass casualty operations, and conducted over 60 convoys. From sun up until sun down, Warrior Support Soldiers are quietly operating behind the scenes to ensure the Warrior mission can continue on its path to success.











## Golden Dragons Strike!

Story by 1st Lt. Alexander Wurzul  
1-14 Unit Public Affairs Representative

Lt. Col. Jonathan Larsen has commanded the 1-14th Infantry Regiment through four battalion sized field training exercises ranging from PTA and Schofield Barracks to Japan. Operation WARRIOR SPEAR, located at multiple training sites on Oahu, was his final FTX as commander.

“I didn’t look at WARRIOR SPEAR differently than any other FTX,” commented Larsen. “What can we do well? We establish objectives and meet them.”

Over the last fourteen months the battalion continued to set the standard in training and current operations. In September 2012, 1-14 sent a platoon to the Kingdom of Tonga to assist the population after a tropical storm wrecked their

infrastructure. Less than a month later, the battalion deployed to Japan in support of Operation Orient Shield. There, Larsen led the battalion through three highly publicized weeks of bilateral training with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force. Larsen’s primary focus of achievement during his command was to identify a clear training path to be ready for deployment. His philosophy: “Training is built on past exercises to best prepare for future engagements.”

When asked where he believes the battalion stands on those achievements, Larsen responded, saying “We have reached the training gates needed to be prepared for the National Training Center. We have had significant leadership trade out but we’ve been getting better. We are trained and motivated for any mission we’re given.”

It is without a doubt that Larsen’s care and mentorship of junior leaders has had a great impact on the motivation and success of the battalion.

“I’ve learned a lot about myself, how I work, how to improve how I work, and how to facilitate the mission from higher down to the Solder,” says 1st Lt. Matthew Cantone, executive officer of B Co, 1-14.

One of the most valuable lessons Cantone has learned has been, “to continue to work hard despite making mistakes. LTC Larsen always had my back.”

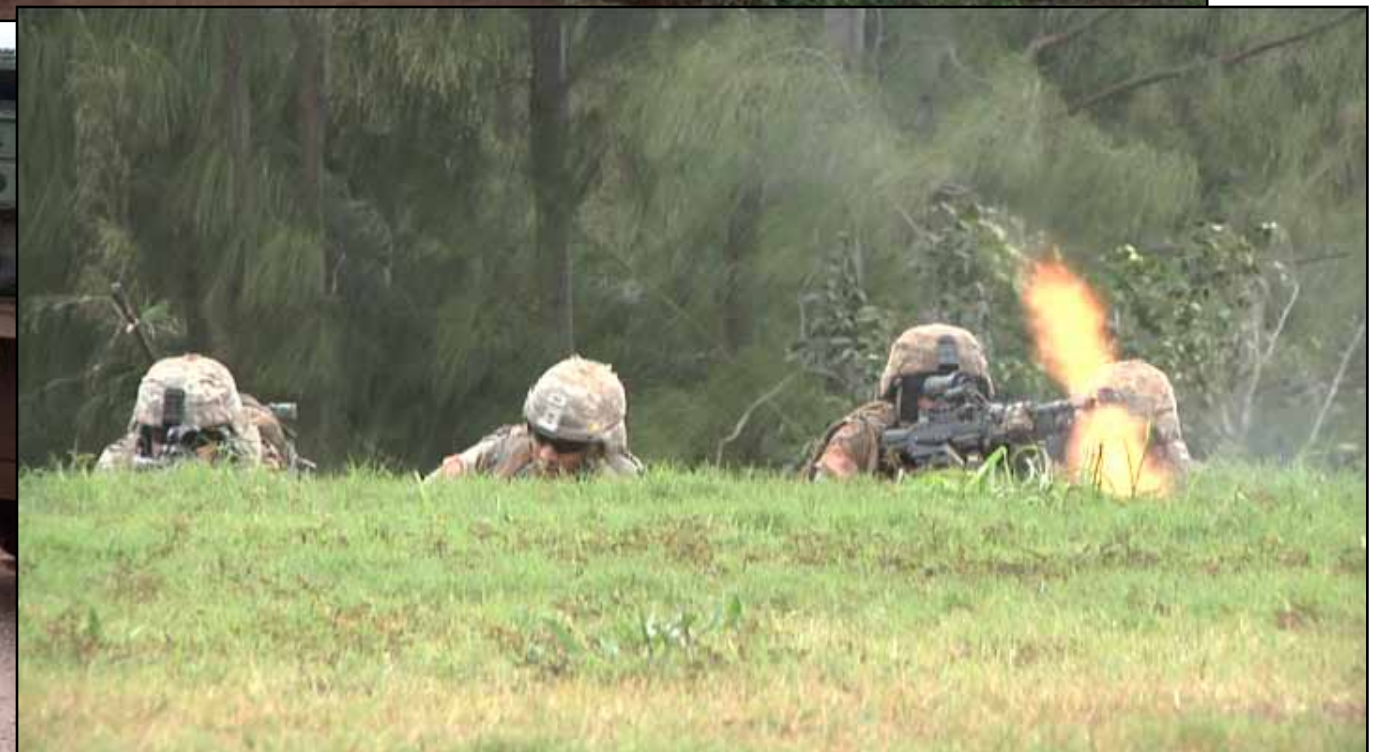
“A leader needs to know when to direct Soldiers and when to lead from the front,” states 1st Lt. Joshua Spychalla. Spychalla, then 2nd Lt., learned this lesson from Larsen during an after action review while serving as a platoon leader with A Co, 1-14 at PTA in May 2012.



Larsen will pass the torch on to the next commander in March 2013. His hands-on leadership, determination through focused training, and mentorship will not easily be replaced.











## Guns Fire During Warrior Spear

Story by 1st Lt. Shea Orr  
2-11 Unit Public Affairs Representative

“Fire!” Staff Sergeant Lewis Chacon yells, as another round from Charlie Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Field Artillery Regiment thunders downrange.

SSG Chacon’s crew quickly unloads the spent round, slams another in the chamber, and prepares to adjust fire.

This is Charlie Battery’s final exam in a series of tests to see how well they perform under pressure. Over the course of the 3-week exercise dubbed Operation Warrior Spear, each of 2-11 FAR’s batteries have had a chance to prove their worth

to the men and women of 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team who count on them for fire support. Operation Warrior Spear is a brigade-wide field training exercise designed to encourage teamwork between battalions and trust amongst Soldiers. 2-11 FAR’s role is to put rounds on target at a moment’s notice.

“The whole purpose of artillery is maneuver support,” Chacon comments. The ability to accurately deliver fires in a timely manner is the quintessential mission of Field Artillery.

The Howitzers cannot shoot, however, until a series of precise

instructions make their way from the men on the front line to the guns of Charlie Battery; a critical step that involves communication and teamwork.

“The infantry learn to the proper procedures for direct fire, and the forward observers learn how to compute the fire missions and send them [to us]. It’s all connected. Everybody is getting trained,” Chacon explains.

Everything about Warrior Spear is set up to be as close to real-world conditions as possible, all the way down to using live rounds for fires. While using live rounds for training may seem unnecessary to

some, the advantages far outweigh the drawbacks. The biggest benefit that Soldiers stand to gain from this type of training is safety.

2-11’s S3, Maj. Andrew Visser elaborates, “You can simulate calling for fire, but there is no substitute for doing it under live conditions. It not only increases our ability to destroy, neutralize, or suppress the enemy, but also to avoid fratricide.”

As Operation Warrior Spear comes to a close, 2-11 returns their Howitzers to the motor pool for recovery and maintenance operations. In the upcoming months, 2-11 will begin to focus on individual training and junior leader development in anticipation of the next field training exercise where they will once again confirm themselves The King of Battle.



“In the end, no one fights on their own. Everyone fights as a team.”











## 2-14 Battle Captain Shares Experience

Story by 1st Lt. Bryce Land  
2-14 Unit Public Affairs Representative

Being a Staff Officer is a tough yet rewarding job. As a junior officer in the Squadron's Tactical Operations Center (TOC), my duty position was that of Battle Captain. While this is rarely a sought after position, it is possibly the most important position available for a young leader such as myself. Warrior Spear was both a difficult and rewarding experience for me.

The Battle Captain's primary role is battle tracking any and all missions conducted by the Squadron. It is his responsibility to be constantly aware of the current situation of all Squadron assets on mission. The TOC is his domain, and he

is responsible for the operations conducted within the TOC itself.

The Battle Captain coordinates air support and deconflicts airspace for troops in contact. He represents the Squadron Commander in the absence of field grade officers. The Battle Captain is required to brief the SCO upon his arrival into the TOC on the current situation of each Troop.

My first experience as a Battle Captain was during Operation Warrior Spear. Prior to this exercise, I had a very limited knowledge of TOC operations. The S-3 shop set up our TOC a few days early in order to ensure we were prepared for the mission. The first day of Warrior Spear was for the Troops to

conduct troop leading procedures. This gave us more time to rehearse our battle drills and prepare our communication systems. I was unaware of how hectic the TOC could get; I found out quickly once missions began. When the Troops began their missions, I started pulling information track each Troop's movement. I did what I could to maintain situational awareness of each Troop.

When I started to lose focus. Cpt. Swanton or Maj. Ransone would push me in the right direction. The worst part of being a Battle Captain was the silence. It was hard for me to not know what was happening when the troops were not talking. When the troops came into contact at the

Key Leader Engagement lane, the troops gave me their initial contact report and then were silent. That silence may have been only minutes, but it seemed like an eternity to me. I began to use that time to figure out what assistance the Troops would need from the TOC instead of what I needed from them.

Warrior Spear was a learning experience for me. The entire time the TOC was running I continued to learn from the training and the experience of others. The most important take away for me was Air Space Coordination. During the KLE lane, I had to coordinate for Air MEDEVAC. By the time the Troops finished sending up their 9-line MEDEVAC requests, I had already notified Brigade and began the coordination for the helicopter. The experience helped me expand my tactical patience.



Having to deal with only knowing what was being reported on the radio was difficult to get used to.

The Squadron's success in Warrior Spear partially came from the TOC running smoothly. The Soldiers in the TOC maintained a high level

of awareness and communication with the troops on ground enabling me to properly maintain situational awareness. This exercise taught me how a TOC operates, the fundamentals of mission command, and the importance of being a Battle Captain.









